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2017

## Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting of Somerville Maine June, 2017

Somerville, Me.

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**SOMERVILLE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**  
**Gymnasium at RSU 12 Offices**  
**665 Patricktown Rd**  
**Somerville, Maine**  
**June 13 & 17, 2017**

**MINUTES**

**ARTICLE 1: To choose, by written ballot, a moderator to preside at the town meeting.**

Chris Johnson was elected on June 13, 2017 as moderator to preside at said meeting.

Meeting called to order at 10:30 a.m., June 17 by moderator Chris Johnson.

Pledge of Allegiance

Moderator followed the Maine Moderator's Manual to conduct the meeting.

**ARTICLE 2: To choose, by secret ballot, in accordance with the vote of the Town, the following officers and officials: Third Selectman, Assessor and Overseer of the Poor (3 year term) and RSU 12 School Board Director (3 year term)**

Election results from June 13, 2017 were reviewed:

Third Selectman: Darlene Landry was re-elected with 56 votes. There were 42 write-in votes: 36 for Willard Pierpont, two for Larry Peaslee, one for Jim Grenier Sr., 1 for Scott Higgins, one for Frank Hample, and one for Jeffrey Alan Read.

RSU 12 School Board Director: Russell Gates was elected with 60 votes. Frank Hample had 46 votes. There were two write-ins: one for Willard Pierpont and one for Mark Frampton.

Susan first acknowledged Frank Hample and Jesse Turner for their dedication to the town. Jesse will be ending his term as road commissioner and Frank Hample will be ending his term as RSU 12 School Board Director.

**ARTICLE 3: Somerville Comprehensive Plan**

Jim Grenier Sr. made a motion to adopt the comprehensive plan draft; Frank Hample Seconded. Susan explained the history of the Comprehensive Plan, stating that the draft has been updated from the 2012 draft. The Comprehensive Planning Committee has interviewed many people in town, asking what they'd like to see Somerville become in the future and what recommendations they have. The selectmen also answered residents' questions by responding that this plan is in no way an ordinance, only plans. They also explained that in order to get some state grants or adopt new zoning ordinances, there needs to be a comprehensive plan filed with and accepted by the State. Susan also explained that the comprehensive plan drafted in 1996 was not submitted to either the town

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voters or to the State, but when a shoreline ordinance was updated in 2012, the Town realized it did not have a comprehensive plan. The draft that is being voted on today is taken from the 2012 draft, but updated to present day. Tim Dostie made a motion to move to voting and it was seconded. A vote was taken to move to voting. 46 voted yes, 27 voted no. Motion failed.

Jim Grenier Sr., former chair of the Comprehensive Plan Committee, explained that for the last five years the comprehensive plan committee has been meeting every month. In response to residents' questions, he stated that the process to draft a new plan was because the committee knew the plan from 2012 would not meet requirements of the State. He also noted that the plan is merely a road map for ordinances and are only recommendations and does not dictate anything. Mike Dostie made a motion to move to voting and the motion was seconded. A vote was taken. 60 voted yes, 5 voted no; motion carried.

A written ballot was taken.

Vote on Article 3: 42 yes, 40 no. Motion failed.

**ARTICLE 4: Somerville Addressing Ordinance**

Mike Dostie made a motion to adopt the Somerville Addressing Ordinance and the motion was seconded. A resident inquired about updating the addresses via post office and online road maps on South Colby Road to reflect the new changes made to the address numbers and road name. Alissa Yoder noted that she will be in contact with Jim Murphy, the addressing officer, to see if the state has updated the road name and numbers. David Greer made a motion to move to vote and the vote was seconded. A written ballot was taken.

Vote on Article 4: 49 Yes, 23 No. Motion passed.

**ARTICLE 5: Administration Purposes**

Mike Dostie made a motion to raise and appropriate from property taxation for the town administration the sum of \$22,320.00, as recommended by the Budget Committee. The motion was seconded. The town treasurer explained that these expenses include things like insurance and office equipment, and are in fact lower than last year's budget, due to cuts in utility costs and lower insurance.

A vote was taken.

Vote on Article 5: 52 Yes, 11 No. Motion passed.

**ARTICLE 6: Town Office Operation**

Mike Dostie moved to raise and appropriate \$6,000.00 from property taxation for Town Office operation as recommended by the Budget Committee. The motion was seconded.

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A vote was taken.

Vote on Article 6: 53 Yes, 11 No. Motion passed.

**ARTICLE 7: Contract Services**

Mike Dostie moved to raise and appropriate \$28,250.00 from property taxation for payment of contract services required by the town, as recommended by the Budget Committee. The motion was seconded. The select board noted that the Revaluation Reserve is for the revaluations that are done every ten to fifteen years. The total expense of the past revaluation was \$90,000. Every year, money is put into the reserve so that when the next revaluation comes up, the money is already there to do it. Susan also responded to an inquiry about the cemetery mowing, and explained that the \$1800 is the proportional amount for the Veteran's gravesites and monuments only. The remainder of the 2017 funds was put into the reserve account. A resident also asked about the attorney fees. The select board responded by saying that the amount over the 2017 budget paid for attorney fees was taken from the contingency fund. This amount paid in FY 2017 was a total of \$7,442.44, with a budgeted amount of \$2,500.

A vote was taken.

Vote on Article 7: 53 Yes, 3 No. Motion passed.

**ARTICLE 8: Salaries and Stipends of Town Officers and Officials**

Mike Dostie made a motion to raise an appropriate \$71,047.00 from property taxation for salaries, stipends, and personal-related expenses of Town Officers and Officials as recommended by the Budget Committee. The motion was seconded.

A vote was taken.

Vote on Article 8: 50 Yes, 7 No. Motion passed.

**ARTICLE 9: Capital Road Construction**

Mike Dostie made a motion to expend the funds received through the Local Road Assistance Program to reconstruct town roads, per the Somerville Long Range Road Plan. The motion was seconded. The select board responded to an inquiry, stating that these funds do not include paying for road signs.

A vote was taken.

Vote on Article 9: 55 Yes, 2 No. Motion passed.

**ARTICLE 10: Road Construction, Maintenance and Repair**

Mike Dostie made a motion to raise and appropriate from property taxation for maintaining and repairing Somerville roads. The motion was seconded. In response to residents' comments, the selectmen stated that all town meetings are open to the public

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and always advertised. They also encouraged people to attend selectmen's meetings if they have questions or concerns that they would like to have addressed. In response to a resident's inquiry, it was stated that the total of lowest bids for road reconstruction of all the roads was \$498,947.00. An inquiry was made about the snowplowing contract; the snowplow contract was extended for two years and could go out to bid again in 2019. Part of this year's money will be used to get the roadwork started. Jesse Turner noted that all roads have been graded this season. A request was made to allow a non-resident to ask a question. The vote was unanimous to allow. Susan responded to the non-resident's question, stating that he is welcome to come to selectmen's meetings, even if not a resident yet. Susan also noted that the new road commissioner appointed as of July 1, 2017, Josh Platt, will not be doing any work on the roads himself. The selectmen responded to more questions from the residents, stating that any project that is estimated to cost \$5,000 or more has to go out to bid. Any resident that is interested in doing work on the roads should give their information to Josh Platt. Tim Dostie made a motion to move the question and vote, and the motion was seconded. A vote was taken with 57 yes, 1 no. Motion passed to vote on Article 10.

A vote was taken.

Article 10 passed unanimously

**ARTICLE 11: Issuance of Bond for Road Reconstruction**

Gerry Kimball made a motion to authorize the Board of Selectmen to borrow up to \$800,000 through the issuance of a bond for the purpose of Road Reconstruction and Capital Improvement according to the Somerville Road Plan. The motion was seconded. The selectmen responded to residents' questions, stating that approximately \$500,000 is needed to reconstruct all of the gravel roads based on bids received from 2 construction companies. There is an additional bid to pave Somerville Road which is \$311,653. This road is recommended to be paved because of the water conditions along the road and heavy travel. Residents expressed concern over paving Somerville Road due to driver's speeds possibly increasing. The selectmen noted that a contract has not been signed to pave Somerville Road. Concern was expressed about the width of the bridge at the 105 end of the Somerville Road; asked that a sign be placed to identify it as narrow. In response to a resident's question, they also stated that they have not had the road plans reviewed by DEP yet. Tim Dostie made a motion to move to voting. The motion was seconded. A vote was taken. The motion to move passed unanimously.

A written ballot was taken.

Vote on Article 11: 41 Yes, 28 No. Motion passed

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**ARTICLE 12: Revenue Collection**

Mike Dostie made a motion to raise and appropriate from property taxation for the Collection of Revenue. The motion was seconded. The selectmen explained what Tax Bills Outsourcing and Discount on Taxes means to the voters.

A vote was taken.

Article 12 passed unanimously

**ARTICLE 13: Health and Safety**

Mike Dostie made a motion to raise and appropriate from property taxation for Health and Safety as identified in the warrant. No questions or concerns were raised.

A vote was taken.

Article 13 passed unanimously.

**ARTICLE 14: Grants to Not-For-Profit Community Organizations**

Mike Dostie made a motion to move the recommended amount for grants to not-for profit organizations. The motion was seconded. A vote was taken to allow Jessica Tyson, a non-resident, to speak. The vote passed. Jessica Tyson introduced herself as the executive director of Midcoast Maine Community Action, which is the operator of the Head Start Program. She reported that last year they served 10 children from three families for a total of \$38,241. She opened the floor for any questions. There were no questions or concerns raised.

A vote was taken.

Article 14 passed unanimously.

**ARTICLE 15: Inter-Governmental Transfers**

Mike Dostie made a motion to raise and appropriate the recommended amount from property taxation for inter-governmental transfers. The motion was seconded. The question was raised as to why the adult education is down \$1,000 this year.

Christopher Johnson stated that the adult education is joining with another school to bring the cost down.

A vote was taken.

Vote on article 15: 41 Yes, 1 No. Motion passed

**ARTICLE 16: Fund balances to be carried forward**

Gerry Kimball made the motion to approve all the remaining articles from 16-28 simultaneously. The motion was seconded. A vote was taken to pass all remaining articles. The vote passed unanimously. No questions or concerns were raised for

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articles 16-28. Christopher Johnson noted that Article 17 has a recommended amount of \$20,000 and Article 26 has a recommended amount of \$10,000. Gerry Kimball made a motion to approve all articles as stated. The motion was seconded. A vote was taken to approve Articles 16-28. The vote passed unanimously.  
Article 16 passed unanimously.

**ARTICLE 17: Unanticipated Expenses and Emergencies**

Gerry Kimball made a motion to vote to authorize the municipal officers to appropriate from surplus as they deem advisable to meet unanticipated expenses and emergencies that occur during fiscal year 2018. The motion was seconded.  
Article 17 passed unanimously.

**ARTICLE 18: Surplus and Overdraft Accounts**

Gerry Kimball made a motion to vote to authorize that the surplus and overdraft accounts be lapsed to the General Fund. The motion was seconded.  
Article 18 passed unanimously.

**ARTICLE 19: Disposal of real estate acquired by the Town**

Gerry Kimball made a motion to vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen, on behalf of the Town, to sell and dispose of any real estate acquired by the Town for non-payment of taxes thereon, on such terms as they may deem advisable, and to execute quit claim deeds for such property. The motion was seconded.  
Article 19 passed unanimously.

**ARTICLE 20: Waiver of Foreclosure**

Gerry Kimball made a motion to vote to authorize the Treasurer to waive the foreclosure of tax lien mortgages pursuant to 36 MRSA § 944 upon finding by the Board of Selectmen that ownership of the property subject to lien would be contrary to the Town's best interest. The motion was seconded.  
Article 20 passed unanimously.

**ARTICLE 21: Funds to pay for sale of tax-acquired property**

Gerry Kimball made a motion to vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to expend money from the sale of any tax-acquired property to pay the costs of said sale. The motion was seconded.  
Article 21 passed unanimously.

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**ARTICLE 22: Transfer of funds received from the sale of tax-acquired property**

Gerry Kimball made a motion to vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to transfer funds received from the sale of tax-acquired property to the Capital Road Construction Reserve account. The motion was seconded.

Article 22 passed unanimously.

**ARTICLE 23: Prepayment of Taxes**

Gerry Kimball made a motion to vote to authorize the Tax Collector or Treasurer to accept prepayments of taxes not yet committed, pursuant to 36 MRSA § 506. The motion was seconded.

Article 23 passed unanimously.

**ARTICLE 24: Discount on Taxes**

Gerry Kimball made a motion to allow taxpayers a discount on taxes paid within 30 days after the postmark date on the bill and to set the rate thereof at 2%. The motion was seconded.

Article 24 passed unanimously.

**ARTICLE 25: Set the interest rate charged for late payment of taxes**

Gerry Kimball made a motion to charge an interest rate of .583% per month or fraction thereof, on all taxes paid after November 15, 2017 and May 15, 2018. The motion was seconded.

Article 25 passed unanimously.

**ARTICLE 26: Use of surplus funds for reduction of taxes**

Gerry Kimball made a motion to vote to authorize the expenditure of up to \$10,000 from the General Fund, for the purpose of reduction of taxes. The motion was seconded.

Article 26 passed unanimously.

**ARTICLE 27: Authorize receipt and expenditure of grants and other receipts**

Gerry Kimball made a motion to vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to receive and expend such other sums as may be received from federal, state or local grants or programs or other sources during the period July 2017 through June 2018 for town purpose. The motion was seconded.

Article 27 passed unanimously.



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**ARTICLE 28: Allow distribution of funds from snowmobile registrations**

Gerry Kimball made a motion to vote to appropriate the funds that are received from the State of Maine in 2017 and 2018, from snowmobile registrations, to the Backwoods Bouncers Snowmobile Club. The motion was seconded.

Article 28 passed unanimously.

Mike Dostie motioned to adjourn at 2:15 p.m. and the motion was seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Alissa Yoder  
Town Clerk

Approved by Board of Selectmen:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Susan Greer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Don Chase

\_\_\_\_\_  
Darlene Landry